



Mr. Kevin Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: NFL Network and Other Independent Programmers

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to follow up on a number of constituent letters and emails I have received expressing concern that the cable systems to which they subscribe in North Carolina are refusing to carry the NFL Network. Many of those letters also note that those cable systems require them to purchase other sports networks, such as Versus or the Golf Channel, that those constituents never watch and do not want to pay for. Also, comments are often made that the cable systems promote the less popular channels that the cable companies own.

As Mayor, I have no jurisdiction over this dispute, but I know this is an issue important to my constituents, so I turn to you, as I understand the FCC has opened a rulemaking proceeding to consider program carriage issues such as these, particularly as they relate to independent and diverse channels. I also note that in connection with another high-profile sports channel carriage dispute, between Comcast and MASN in 2005, that the FCC chose to appoint an arbitrator to settle the dispute, which helped the parties to reach a negotiated solution.

Both the NFL Panthers and TimeWarner Cable are important constituents in Charlotte. Customers and my constituents need this issue resolved as soon as possible. Especially since the NFL Network game telecasts begin on Thanksgiving night.

Lastly, I know there is an overall concern, not just in Charlotte, about media diversity and consumer choice. As the Mayor of a top 20 city and a past member of the FCC Intergovernmental Committee, I would be glad to assist you as the FCC addresses these concerns.

On a personal note, I want to let you know how proud we are in Charlotte of your leadership. I have enjoyed getting to know you on your return visits to your "home" in Charlotte. Please let me know how I can assist you with this issue and others related to the FCC.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. McCrory
Mayor

P.S. I assume you are supporting the Panthers and not the Redskins!!!!!!!